

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 CARACA 10374 051914Z

60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08 CIEP-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /151 W

----- 041727

R 051653Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1993

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 10374

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG VE

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON US-VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS'  
STATEMENTS ON ENERGY RESOURCES

REF: STATE 237608

1. I HAVE NOT MADE ANY REQUEST TO VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE VENEZUELA'S OIL PRODUCTION OR SALES TO U.S., NOR HAVE I EXPRESSED TO ANY MEMBERS OF PRESS "SATISFACTION AT PROSPECTS VENEZUELA MAY INCREASE ITS OIL SALES TO U.S." IN FACT, SO FAR AS MEMORY SERVES, I HAVE NOT DISCUSSED VENEZUELAN OIL WITH PRESS IN THIS CALENDAR YEAR. I HAVE NOT THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO REFUTE ALLEGATIONS TO THAT EFFECT WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED IN LOCAL PRESS, BUT IF ASKED BY LOCAL JOURNALISTS, EMBASSY WILL ISSUE APPROPRIATE DENIAL. FACT IS, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE IS NO SCOPE FOR EXPANSION OF VENEZUELAN OIL PRODUCTION WHICH IS VIRTUALLY AT CAPACITY, AND DESTINATION OF VENEZUELA'S OIL EXPORTS (EXCEPT THOSE OF SMALL STATE OIL COMPANY) IS CONTROLLED BY OIL COMPANIES, NOT BE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 CARACA 10374 051914Z

2. REGARDING STATEMENT BY UNDERSECRETARY CASEY, EMBASSY HAD RECEIVED FULL TEXT HIS REMARKS THROUGH USIA CHANNEL AND WAS THEREFORE AWARE THAT HIS REMARKS RE POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT OF ORINOCO BELT HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT OF CONTEXT BY PRENSA LATINA AND LOCAL PRESS. WE REGARDED MISQUOTATIONS IN LOCAL PRESS AS UNFORTUNATE BUT NOT SERIOUS, AND DID NOT THINK IT ADVISABLE TO ISSUE CLARIFICATION SINCE SUCH STORIES THAT MAKE PAGE ONE TODAY ARE FORGOTTEN HERE BY TOMORROW.

3. IT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO DEPARTMENT TO KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT PORTION OF UNDERSECRETARY CASEY'S SPEECH THAT RELATED TO VENEZUELA, WHICH AMOUNTED TO ONLY A PART OF ONE SENTENCE, WAS TREATED BY THE PRESS HERE, IN TYPICAL FASHION, AS IF IT HAD BEEN THE MAIN THEME OF HIS SPEECH. EL NACIONAL HEADLINE READ "WASHINGTON ASKS VENEZUELA TO RESOLVE ITS ENERGY CRISIS," AND EL UNIVERSAL HEADLINE READ "VENEZUELAN OIL OF VITAL IMPORTANCE FOR U.S., WILLIAM CASEY DECLARES." THIS TYPE OF EXTREME "LOCAL-ITIS" MAKES IT DESIRABLE THAT WE TAKE CARE IN ANY U.S. OFFICIAL STATEMENTS THAT MENTION DEVELOPMENT OF NEW PETROLEUM RESERVES IN VENEZUELA TO AVOID IMPLICATIONS THAT WE ARE COUNTING ON NEW OIL SOURCES HERE THAT VENEZUELA HAS NOT YET MADE PUBLIC DECISION TO DEVELOP.

4. MINMINES PEREZ LASALVIA'S STATEMENT, QUOTED PARAGRAPH TWO REFTEL, APPEARS TO BE CONDENSED VERSION OF HIS REMARKS WHICH REPORTED IN FULL BY FBIS DECEMBER 2. THESE REMARKS GOT LITTLE PLAY IN PRESS HERE AND ARE ESSENTIALLY REHASH OF STATEMENTS THAT PEREZ HAS MADE ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS IN PAST. IF THEY HAVE ANY SIGNIFICANCE, IT IS MAINLY AS GRIST FOR COPEI PROPAGANDA MILLS HERE DURING CURRENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN. MCCLINTOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, EXPORTS, PETROLEUM RESERVES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973CARACA10374  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** CARACAS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731244/aaaabgom.tel  
**Line Count:** 96  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** STATE 237608  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <01-Feb-2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS REPORTS ON US-VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS' STATEMENTS ON ENERGY RESOURCES  
**TAGS:** ENRG, VE, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005